

HONORING DUANE OSBORN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor an individual from my district who is a true American hero, Duane A. Osborn. He is an ordinary man with an extraordinary story. Unless you are a friend or a family member you won't recognize his face, or ever have heard of his name. But there are millions of Americans like him—Americans who have sacrificed so much for our country and do not receive nearly enough recognition in return for their service. On this, the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Armistice of the Korean War, I'd like to introduce you to one of many forgotten warriors in a forgotten war.

Duane A. Osborn was born in Wapato, WA on May 30, 1934. In June of 1952, shortly after his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the United States Air Force with the 8th Division. Before he was sent to the Korean War he married Donna Elder.

From 1950 to 1953, the United States joined with United Nations forces in Korea to take a stand against what was deemed a threat to democratic nations worldwide. During the Korean War era, 6.8 million Americans served on active-duty and 1.8 million soldiers served in the Korean theater during the three-year period of hostilities. During the war, 36,940 service members made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives.

At war's end, millions of American veterans returned to a peacetime world of families, homes, and jobs—and to a country reluctant to view the Korean War as something to memorialize. But to the men and women who served, the Korean War could never be a forgotten war.

In October of 1955, following his service, Duane returned home to Washington state and settled in an unincorporated area that would become the city of SeaTac in my district. He worked building county roads until an accident in September of 1973 rendered him a paraplegic.

Duane's hardship duty in Korea had prepared him to meet this difficult physical challenge and in 17 years of participating in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, he has won 100 gold, silver, and bronze medals—proving again and again his courage, commitment and dedication, as well as his passion for living.

Duane continues to contribute to his community and country as a board member of the Northwest Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America where he volunteers his time to make my district and Washington state more accessible for people with disabilities. He works tirelessly to ensure that all Americans are given the opportunities to live their lives to the fullest.

It is the regular men and women like Duane who honorably answered their country's call to duty and went to Korea over fifty years ago today that we must also remember. Countless Americans never won medals, never were labeled "heroes," yet they tirelessly fought for the causes they believed in—freedom and country.

Now home as proud veterans, these individuals know that freedom is not free, they know

the costs and they continue to fight anonymously for liberties at home as they serve their communities, once again volunteering to make life better for all of us.

I thank Duane A. Osborn and the millions of other Korean War veterans for their contributions to my community and my country, both during that War and now at home, and I ask that we remember his service and the service of so many other ordinary, inspiring individuals today.

HONORING THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Yosemite Association for celebrating 80 years of service to Yosemite National Park and the Park's visitors. To honor the anniversary, a special event will be held in front of the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite National Park on August 4th, 2003.

The Yosemite Association is a non-profit support group that has contributed more than \$10 million to aid park programs in Yosemite. Established in 1923, the Association was the first cooperating association in the national park system and currently has a roster of over 9,000 members. The Yosemite Association has served as a model for almost 70 similar organizations that have been established throughout the country.

The Association has helped support numerous projects throughout the years. In 1925, they used donated funds to help build the Yosemite Museum. They also started an active publishing program. The Yosemite Association began publishing educational materials to improve the study of natural and human history in Yosemite and has expanded to produce award-winning books and maps. Other activities of the Yosemite Association include the operation of bookstores in park visitor centers, a program of outdoor courses, several wilderness-related initiatives, and educational programs. They also donate funds to the National Park Service to support education, research, and environmental efforts in Yosemite.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Yosemite Association on its accomplishments and contributions over the past 80 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Yosemite Association many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jamaica on the forty-first anniversary of her Independence and the 169th anniversary of emancipation in Jamaica and the Caribbean. I take pleasure in reflecting upon the magnitude of Jamaica's contribution to New York City, our nation, and the

world and expressing my personal appreciation for the association I have had with Jamaica and its people over the years.

I have been privileged to know and work with all of the Prime Ministers of Jamaica since my election to the Congress, beginning with Prime Minister Michael Manley's appeal for assistance to prevent retaliation by the U.S. Government in response to a justified increase in the royalty paid by U.S. aluminum companies for the exploitation of Jamaica's bauxite. I was privileged to work with Jamaican leaders in the creation and expansion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative which has in the last twenty years significantly increased the trade and commercial relationship between the U.S. and Jamaica and I continue to work in support of the Jamaican government's efforts to obtain U.S. government recognition of the need for special and differential treatment of small economies in the negotiation of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

Jamaica has produced extraordinary leaders from Marcus Garvey to Alexander Bustamante to Norman and Michael Manley who have significantly contributed to the historical global struggle for freedom, self-determination and human rights. I salute Jamaica on this anniversary and the great legacy it has created for us all.

TWENTY-NINTH BLACK ANNIVERSARY FOR CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress, and although the occupation has continued for almost three decades, there are signs that progress is being made.

PSEKA (The International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus), The Cyprus Federation of America (an umbrella organization representing the Cypriot American community in the United States), SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad), and The Federation of Hellenic Societies, are all primarily located in the 14th Congressional district, which I am fortunate to represent. These individuals have refused to believe that peace will not come to Cyprus, and they have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

The fundamental fact is that the continued presence of Turkish troops represents a gross violation of human rights and international law.

Since they invaded Cyprus in July of 1974, Turkish troops have continued to occupy 37 percent of Cyprus. This is in direct defiance of numerous United Nations resolutions and has been a major source of instability in the eastern Mediterranean.

I support President Bush, like his predecessor President Clinton, in saying that true human rights are the goal of the U.S. Government.

A unified Cyprus would promote stability, both politically and economically, to the entire Mediterranean region.